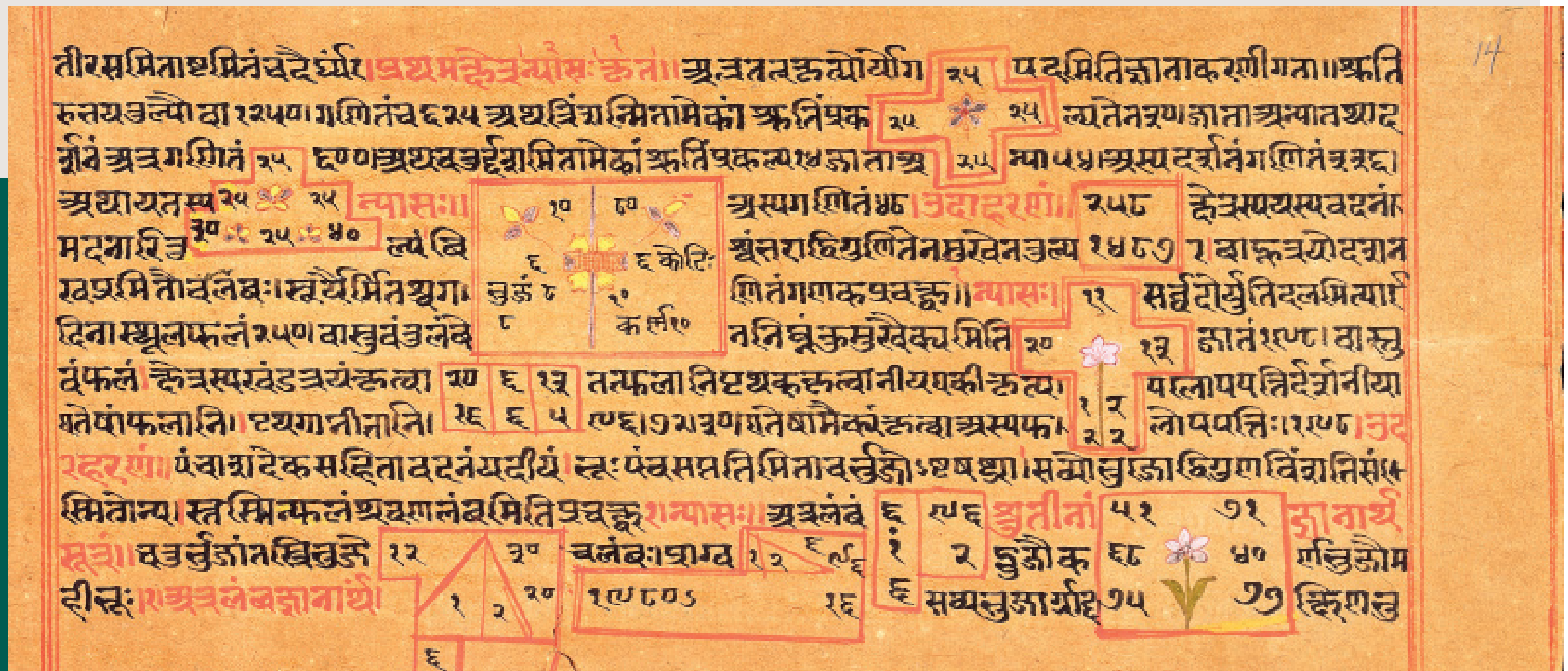


# History of Mathematics in the Indian Subcontinent

Public Talk by Prof. Dr. Clemency Montelle



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2024

10:30–12:30

MAIN CONFERENCE HALL (& ONLINE)

MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE |  
BOLTZMANNSTRASSE 22 | 14195 BERLIN

The astral sciences in the Indian subcontinent—mathematics, astronomy, and related disciplines—have thrived for over two and a half millennia. This rich culture of inquiry has yielded profound insights and techniques that form the bedrock of modern scientific practices, including the base-ten decimal place value system and trigonometry. Despite India's prolific production of millions of manuscripts over this period, a mere fraction have been identified and studied in depth. This talk will explore some of the mathematical highlights of this scientifically dynamic tradition and address the challenges faced by historians of mathematics in comprehensively accounting for the scientific legacy of this extensive and rich culture of inquiry.

TO REGISTER FOR THE EVENT, PLEASE EMAIL [ASTRA@MPIWG-BERLIN.MPG.DE](mailto:ASTRA@MPIWG-BERLIN.MPG.DE), PROVIDING YOUR NAME AND AFFILIATION BY MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024.

SINCE PLACES MAY BE LIMITED, PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND IN PERSON OR REMOTELY.



Professor Montelle (University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand) is a renowned historian of mathematics, specializing in the early cultures of inquiry. Her research focuses on deciphering ancient mathematical texts from Mesopotamia, Greece, India, and the Islamic Near East. Through her expertise in philology and meticulous analysis, Professor Montelle has made significant contributions to our understanding of the development and transmission of mathematical knowledge across civilizations.

Image credits: Folio from the work *Lilāvati* (1150 CE) of Bhāskara. The Wellcome Collection, MS Oriental Indic Beta 249, f. 14r. <https://wellcomecollection.org/works/an9d3cbm>.